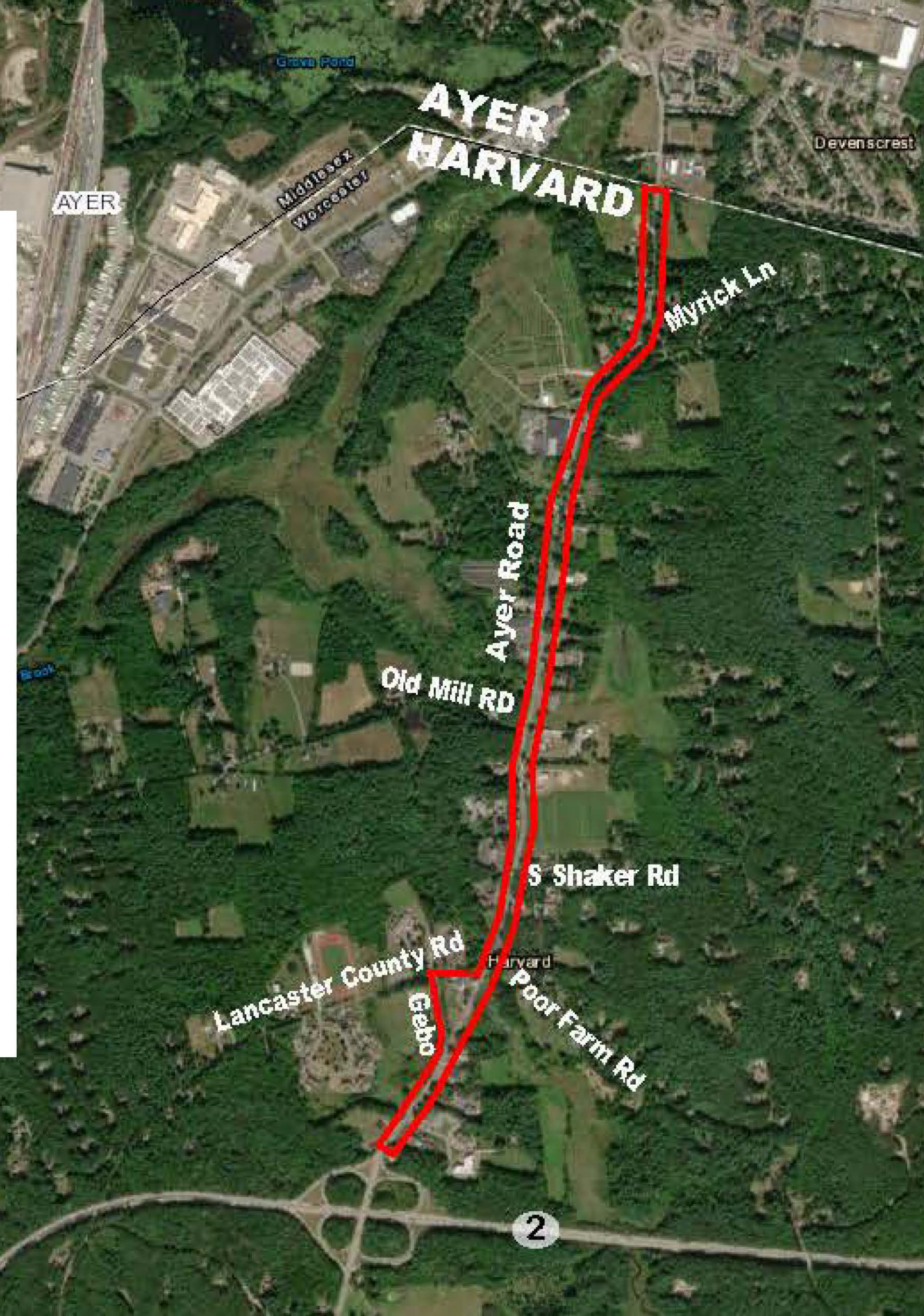


# Reconstruction of Ayer Road (Route 110/111) in Harvard

*Design Public Hearing*

Zoom | March 30, 2022 | 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Project No.609213





# Zoom controls



- Drop down menu to check microphone and speakers



- Ask a question and share comments



- Raise your hand



- If you are unable to access the internet or are having technical problems, please call into the meeting at +1 646 - 876 - 9923, Webinar ID: 828 1028 0245



If you have trouble with the meeting technology during the presentation, please call:

1-888-799-9666

Closed captioning automatically generated by Zoom



Unmute



Q&A



Raise Hand

Leave

# Please note:

## Notification

- While this virtual public hearing is not being recorded, the Massachusetts Department of Transportation may choose to retain and distribute images, audio, and/or the Q/A transcript.
- All parts of this hearing are considered public record.
- If you are not comfortable being recorded, please refrain from utilizing the Q/A feature.

## Important notes

- Your microphone is automatically muted upon entering the hearing.
- The hearing will be open to questions and answers at the end of the presentation.
- Please take time to respond to our survey at the end of the presentation. Your feedback is important.

**All questions and comments are welcome and appreciated, however we do request that you refrain from any disrespectful comments.**



# Introduction

- **MassDOT**
  - Muazzez Reardon P.E., Project Manager
  - Nikki Peters, Right of Way Bureau, Liaison
  - Ann Sullivan, Patrick Hanley and Lori Shattuck, District 3
- **Town of Harvard (Municipality)**
  - Timothy B. Kilhart, Harvard DPW Director
  - Christopher J. Ryan, AICP, Dir. of Community & Economic Development
- **TEC, Inc (Design Consultant)**
  - Lori Aho, P.E., Project Manager
  - Elizabeth Oltman, P.E., Transportation Planning Director
- **ATM (Stenographer)**
  - Greg Tarbox



# Advertisements



## Local Papers

Appeared in the following:

- Harvard Press
  - March 18, 2022
  - March 25, 2022
- Telegram & Gazette
  - March 16, 2022
  - March 23, 2022

## MassDOT Website

- Notice and Flyer posted on the MassDOT Website on February 24, 2022
- The hearing was advertised on MassDOT’s official Twitter account.



### DESIGN PUBLIC HEARING

#### Resurfacing and Box Widening on Ayer Road Harvard, MA

**What is happening?**  
A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the Resurfacing and Box Widening on Ayer Road, from Route 2 to the Ayer Town Line project in Harvard, MA.


**How will this affect you?**  
The proposed project consists of improvements to approximately 1.7 miles of Ayer Road from the Route 2 interchange to the Harvard/Ayer town line. The proposed improvements consist of reconstructing Ayer Road to provide a consistent roadway width with 11-foot lanes and 4-foot shoulders, widening to provide a left turn lane at Gebo Lane, and realigning approximately 650 feet of Gebo Lane to improve vehicular sight distances. A new shared use path will be constructed along the west side of Ayer Road throughout the project.

**When**

Wednesday, March 30, 2022  
Time: 6:30PM to 7:30PM

**Attend**

[www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings](http://www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings)

 This meeting is accessible to people with disabilities and those with limited English proficiency. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request, as appropriate. To request accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-6560), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email ([MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us)). Requests should be made as soon as possible prior to the meeting, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the meeting.

Project inquiries may also be emailed to: [massdotprojectmanagement@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:massdotprojectmanagement@dot.state.ma.us)  
Please submit any written statements regarding the proposed undertaking to: **Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E., Chief Engineer, MassDOT,** 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02216, Attention: Project Management, PROJECT FILE NO. 609213

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION – HIGHWAY DIVISION  
**NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING**  
**Project File No. 609213**

A Live Virtual Design Public Hearing will be hosted on the MassDOT website below to present the design for the proposed Resurfacing and Box Widening on Ayer Road, from Route 2 to the Ayer Town Line project in Harvard, MA.

**WHEN:** 6:30 PM, Wednesday, March 30, 2022

**PURPOSE:** The purpose of this hearing is to provide the public with the opportunity to become fully acquainted with the proposed resurfacing and box widening on Ayer Road, from Route 2 to the Ayer Town Line. All views and comments submitted in response to the hearing will be reviewed and considered to the maximum extent possible.

**PROPOSAL:** The proposed project consists of improvements to approximately 1.7 miles of Ayer Road (Route 110/111) from the Route 2 interchange to the Harvard/Ayer town line. The proposed improvements consist of reconstructing Ayer Road to provide a consistent roadway width with 11-foot lanes and 4-foot shoulders, widening to provide a left turn lane at Gebo Lane, and realigning approximately 650 feet of Gebo Lane to form a standard 90-degree T-intersection to improve vehicular sight distances. A new shared use path will be constructed along the west side of Ayer Road throughout the project limits to provide safe and appropriate pedestrian and bicycle facilities. The shared use path will be 10-feet wide with a 3 to 5-foot buffer area.

A secure right-of-way is necessary for this project. Acquisitions in fee and permanent or temporary easements may be required. The Town is responsible for acquiring all needed rights in private or public lands. The Town's policy concerning land acquisitions will be presented in the hearing.

Project inquiries, written statements and other exhibits regarding the proposed undertaking may be submitted to Carrie E. Lavallee, P.E., Acting Chief Engineer, via e-mail to [MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us) or via US Mail to Suite 6340, 10 Park Plaza, Boston, MA 02116, Attention: **Project Management, Project File No. 609213**. Statements and exhibits intended for inclusion in the public hearing transcript must be emailed or postmarked no later than ten (10) business days (14 calendar days) after the hearing is hosted on the MassDOT website listed below.

This hearing is accessible to people with disabilities. MassDOT provides reasonable accommodations and/or language assistance free of charge upon request (e.g. interpreters in American Sign Language and languages other than English, live captioning, videos, assistive listening devices and alternate material formats), as available. For accommodation or language assistance, please contact MassDOT's Chief Diversity and Civil Rights Officer by phone (857-368-8580), TTD/TTY at (857) 266-0603, fax (857) 368-0602 or by email ([MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOT.CivilRights@dot.state.ma.us)). Requests should be made as soon as possible and prior to the hearing, and for more difficult to arrange services including sign-language, CART or language translation or interpretation, requests should be made at least ten business days before the hearing.

This Live Virtual Design Public Hearing or a cancellation announcement will be hosted on the internet at [www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings](http://www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings).

JONATHAN GULLIVER  
HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATOR

CARRIE E. LAVALLEE, P.E.  
CHIEF ENGINEER



# Project Handout for Harvard MA

<https://www.mass.gov/massdot-highway-design-public-hearings>





## Funding

- Total estimated construction cost:  
\$10.0 Million

**Cost does not include any right-of-way acquisition costs.**

- Project programmed in the  
Statewide Transportation  
Improvement Program (STIP) in the  
appropriate Federal Fiscal Year

### Funding Sources:

- Federal Aid (80%)
- State Funds (20%)



U.S. Department  
of Transportation

**Federal Highway  
Administration**





# Project Overview

- 01 Project Area
- 02 Project History
- 03 Existing Conditions
- 04 Project Goals
- 05 Design Alternatives
- 06 Proposed Improvements
- 07 Right of Way Impacts
- 08 Environmental Permitting
- 09 Construction/Traffic Impacts
- 10 Project Schedule
- 11 Next Steps
- 12 Contact Information
- 13 Questions & Answers



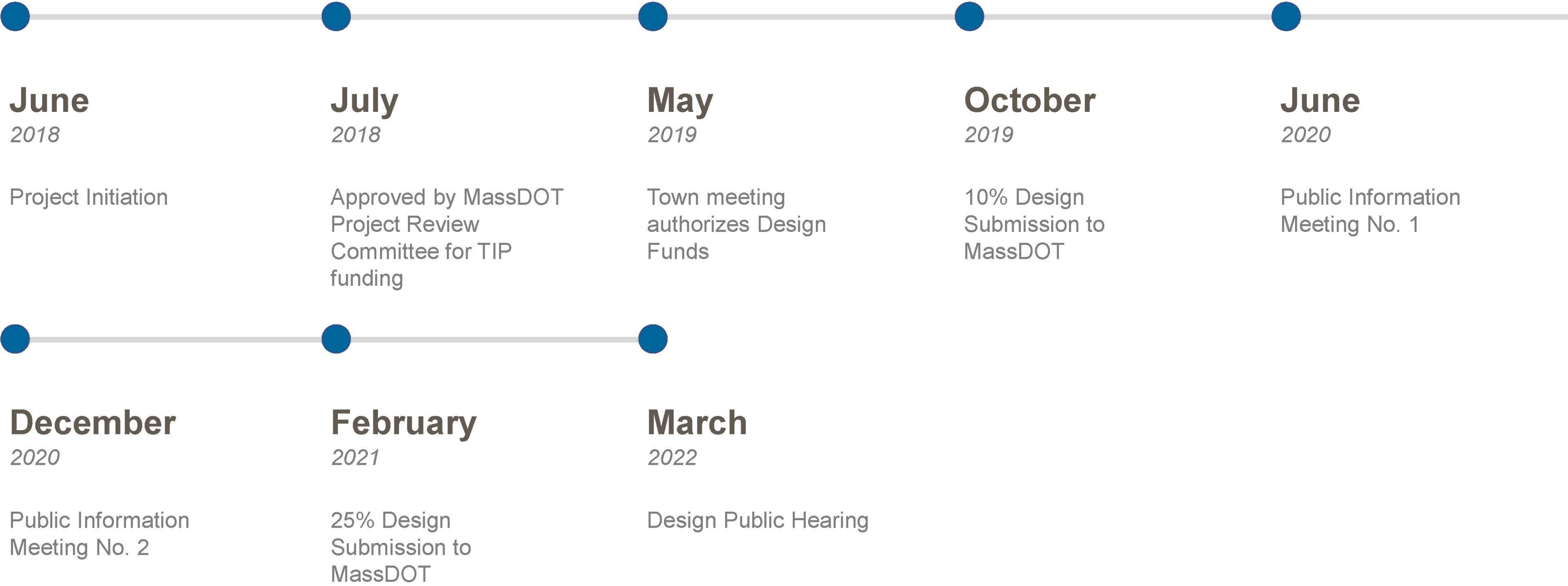


Project Area Ayer Road





# How did we get here?







**Why was this  
project  
initiated?**



Existing Condition

No pedestrian or bicycle accommodations



Existing Condition

Pavement cracking and deteriorating.



Existing Condition

Drainage improvements required.







**What do we  
want to  
accomplish?**





## Project Goals

- Improvements for pedestrians & bicyclists
- Improved safety for all users
- Pavement rehabilitation
- Drainage improvements





8'-10' Shared  
Used Path

3'-5' Grass  
Strip

11'-12' Travel Lane



11'-12' Travel Lane



3'-5' Grass  
Strip

2'-4'  
Shoulder

2'-4'  
Shoulder



What  
alternatives  
were  
considered?

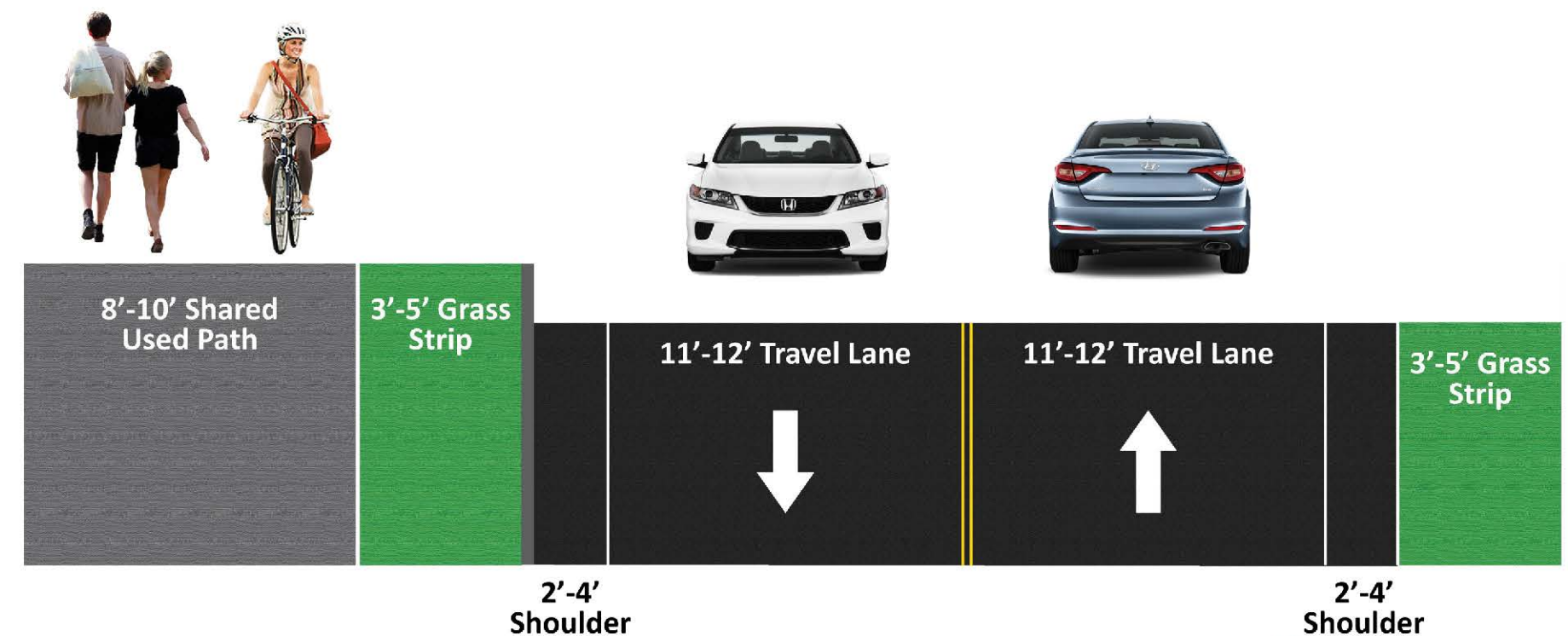


## Cross Section Alternatives

Alternative analysis focused on pedestrian and bicycle accommodation on Ayer Rd.

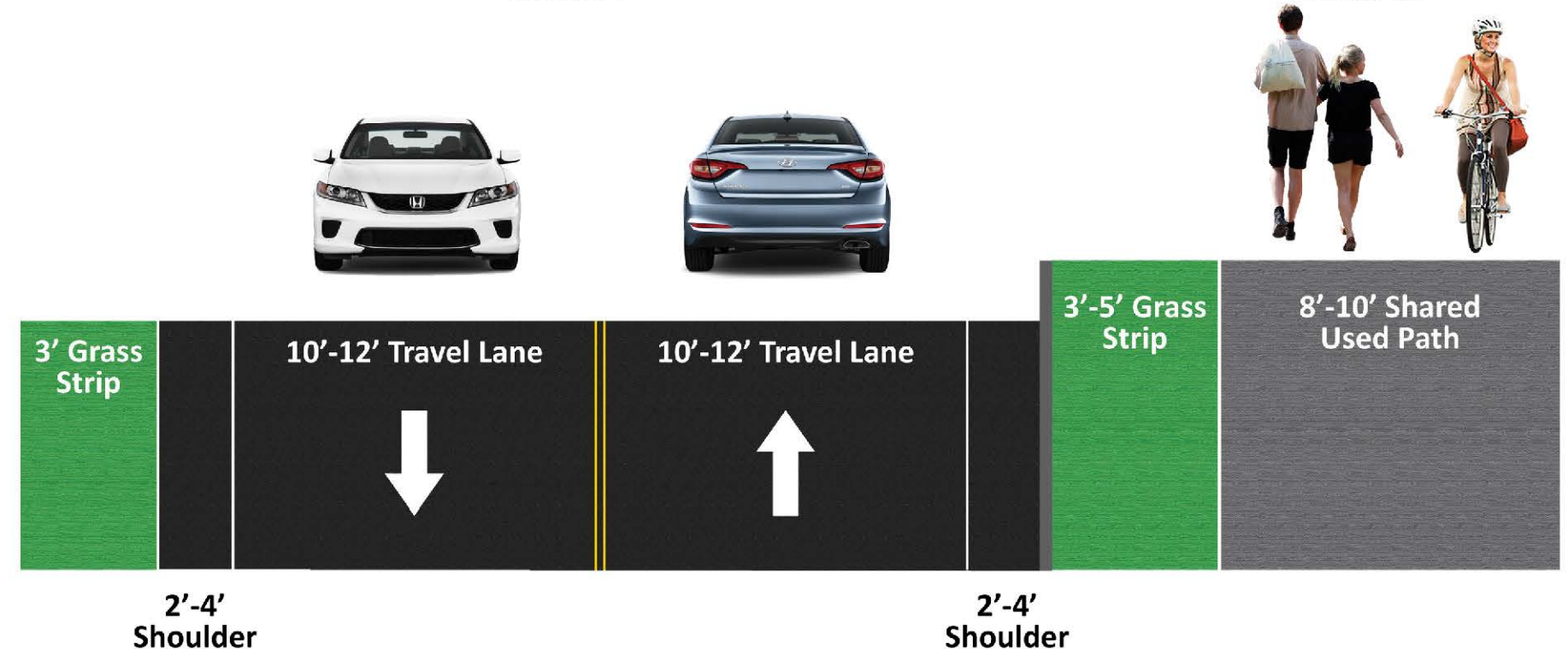
### Alternative 1

- 11'-12' travel lanes with 2'-4' shoulders
- 8'-10' Shared Use Path with 3'-5' buffer on West side of road



### Alternative 2

- 10'-12' travel lanes with 2'-4' shoulders
- 8'-10' Shared Use Path with 3'-5' buffer on East side of road



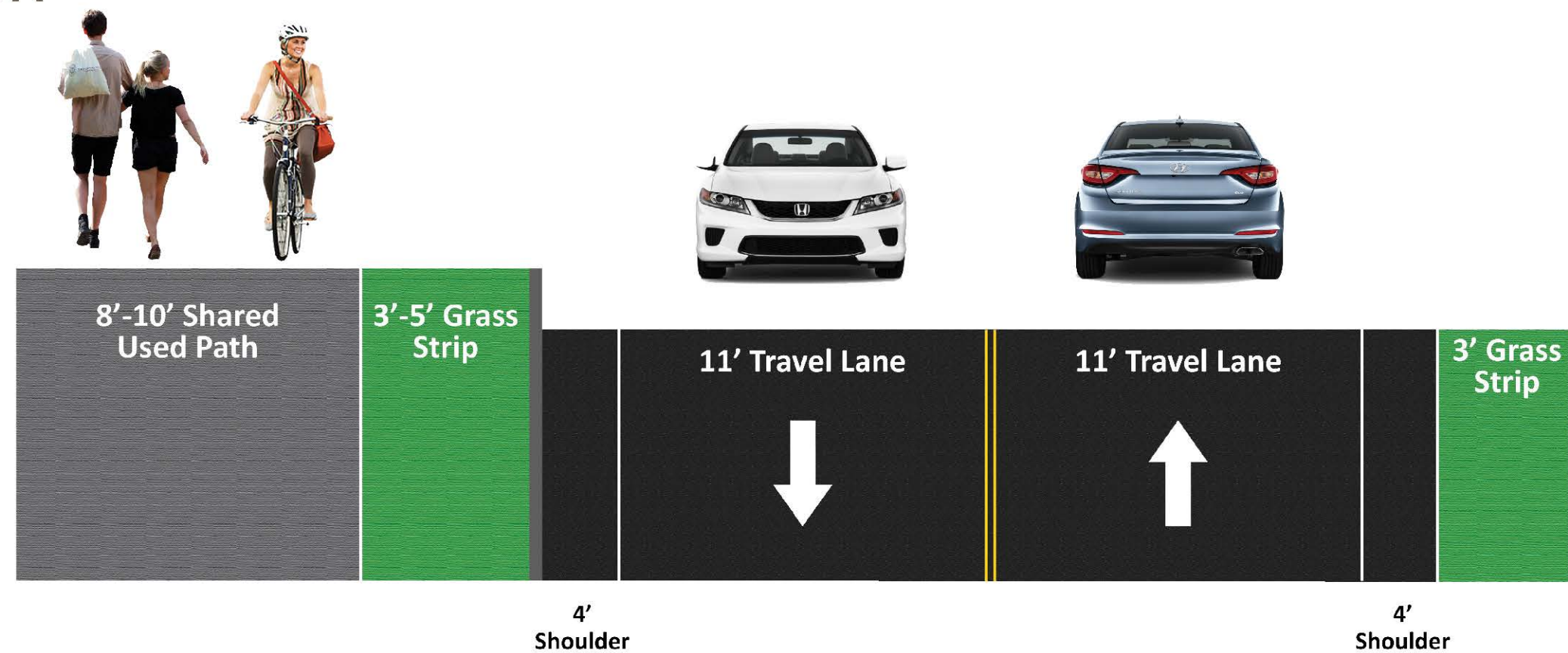


## Cross Section Alternatives (Continued)

Alternative analysis focused on pedestrian and bicycle accommodation alternatives on Ayer Rd.

### Alternative 3

- 11' travel lanes with 4' shoulders
- 8'-10' shared use path with 3'-5' grass buffer





## Intersection Alternatives

Alternative analysis focused on intersection improvements at Ayer Road and Gebo Lane.

### Alternative 1A

- Roundabout at the intersection of Ayer Road and Gebo Lane



### Alternative 1B

- Realign Gebo Lane and add a left turn lane



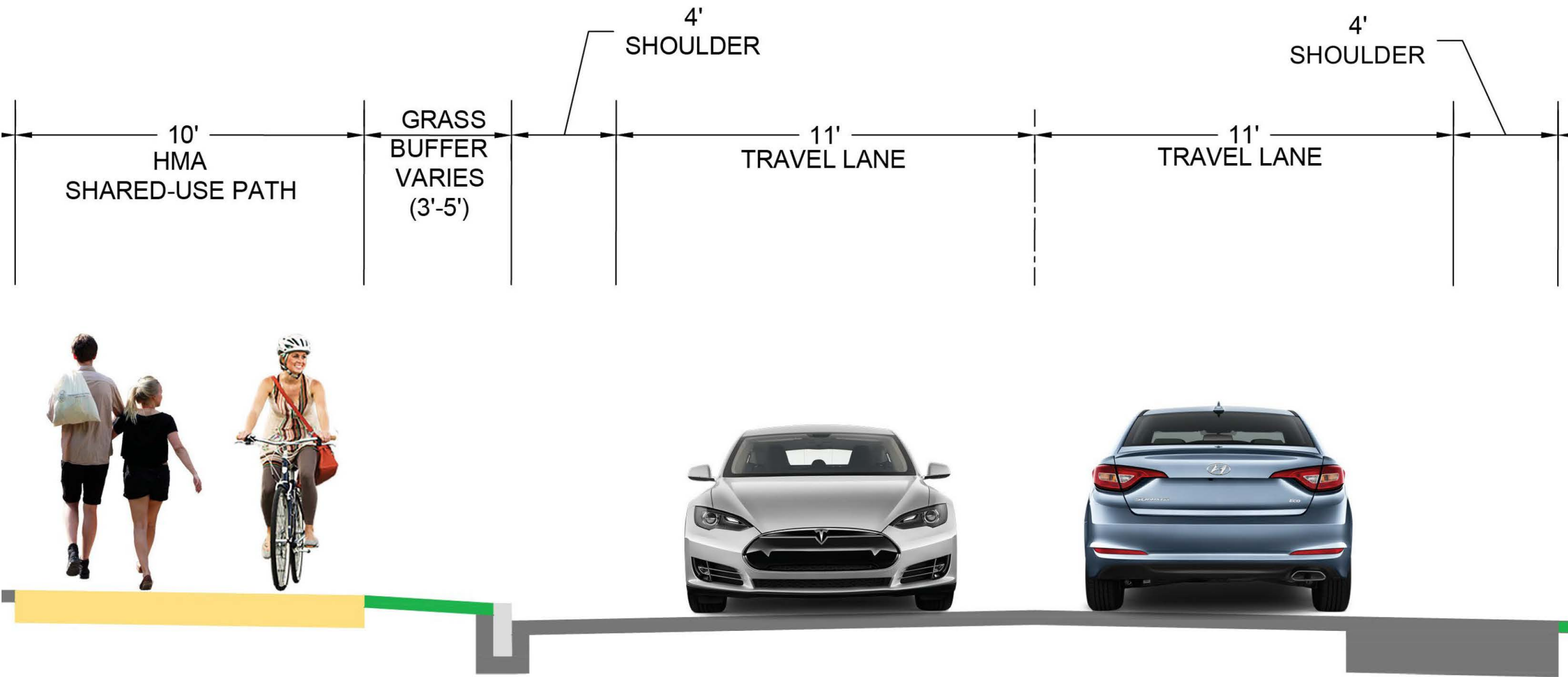




**What is the  
preferred  
alternative?**



# PREFERRED ROADWAY SECTION – AYER ROAD





PREFERRED ROADWAY INTERSECTION – AYER RD AT GEBO LANE





## Proposed Improvements

- Pavement rehabilitation
- Consistent roadway cross section
- Shared use path on west side of Ayer Road
- Crosswalks and pedestrian curb ramps with flashing warning signs
- Modify alignment at intersection of Gebo Lane





## Proposed Improvements Cont'd

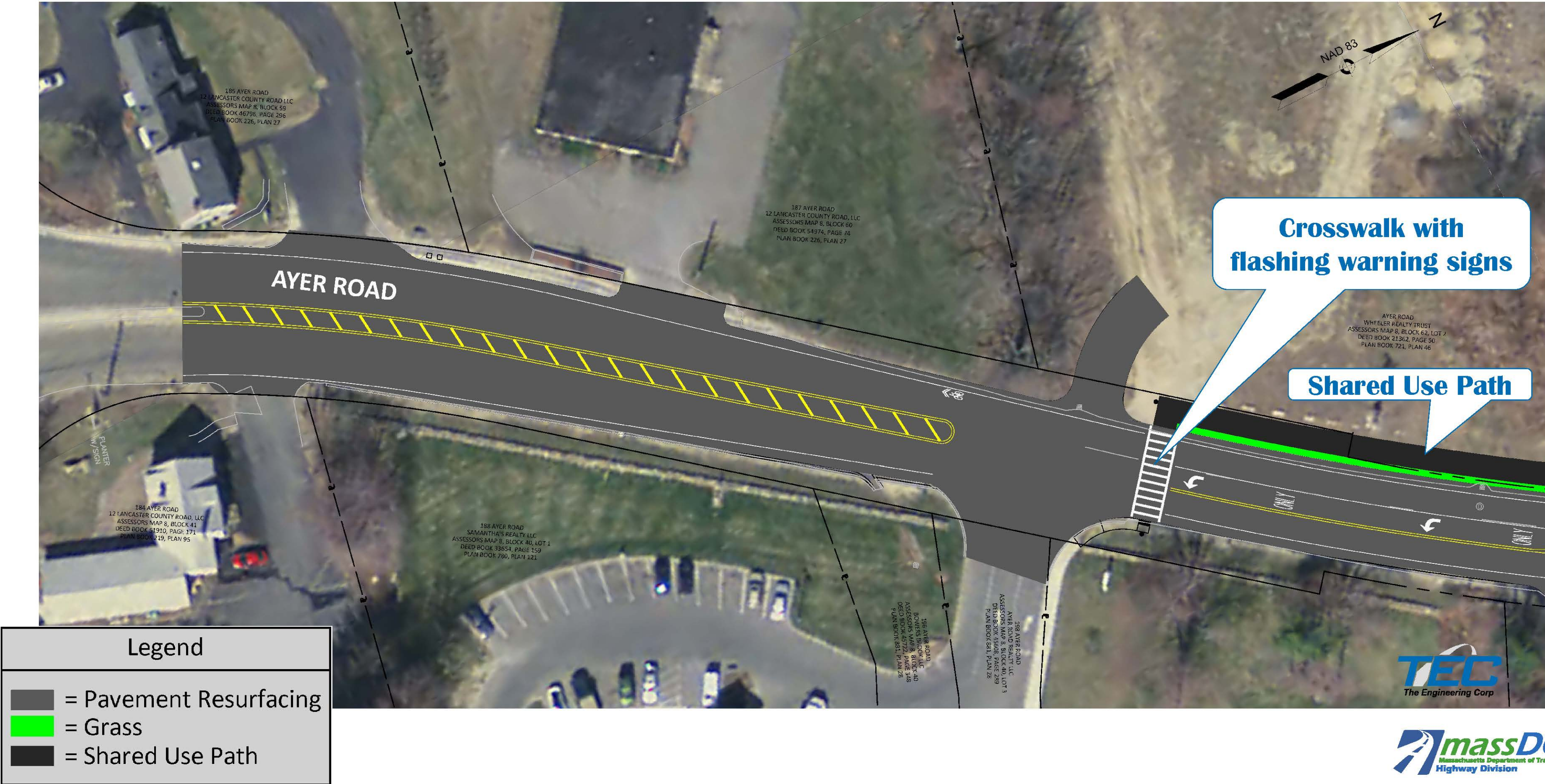
- Installation of new pavement markings & signage
- Improve Drainage
- Utility modifications
- Minor geometric improvements at side street intersections





# Ayer Road

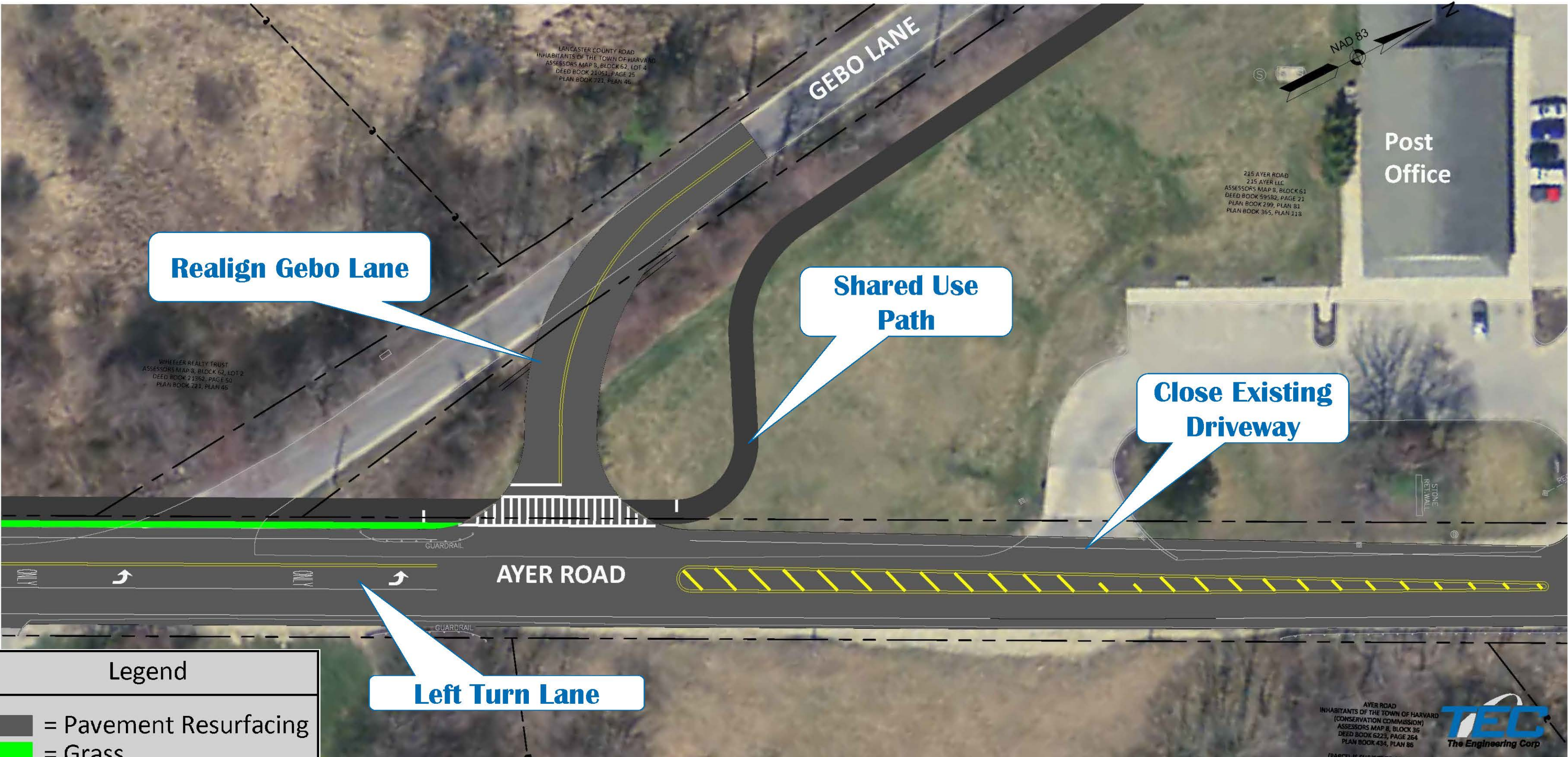
## Preliminary Construction Plans





# Ayer Road

## Preliminary Construction Plans





# Ayer Road

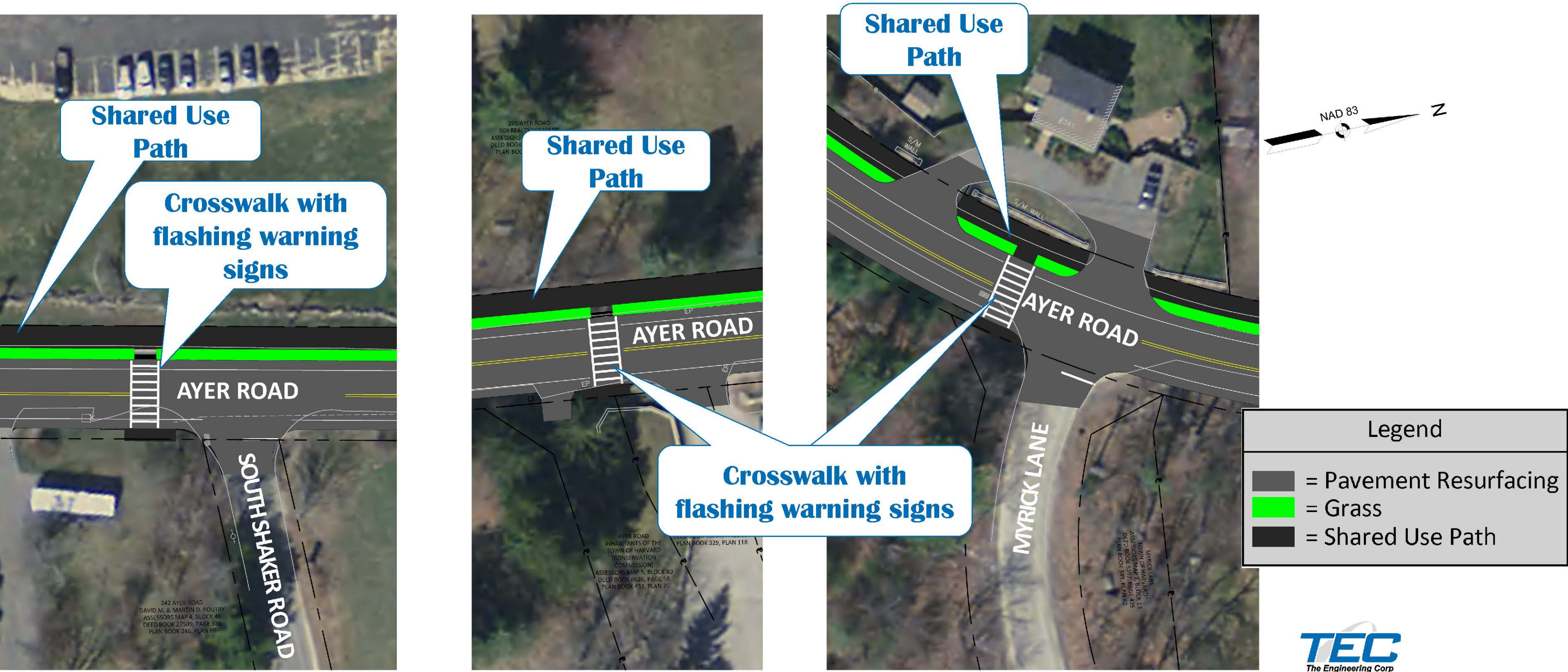
## Preliminary Construction Plans





# Ayer Road

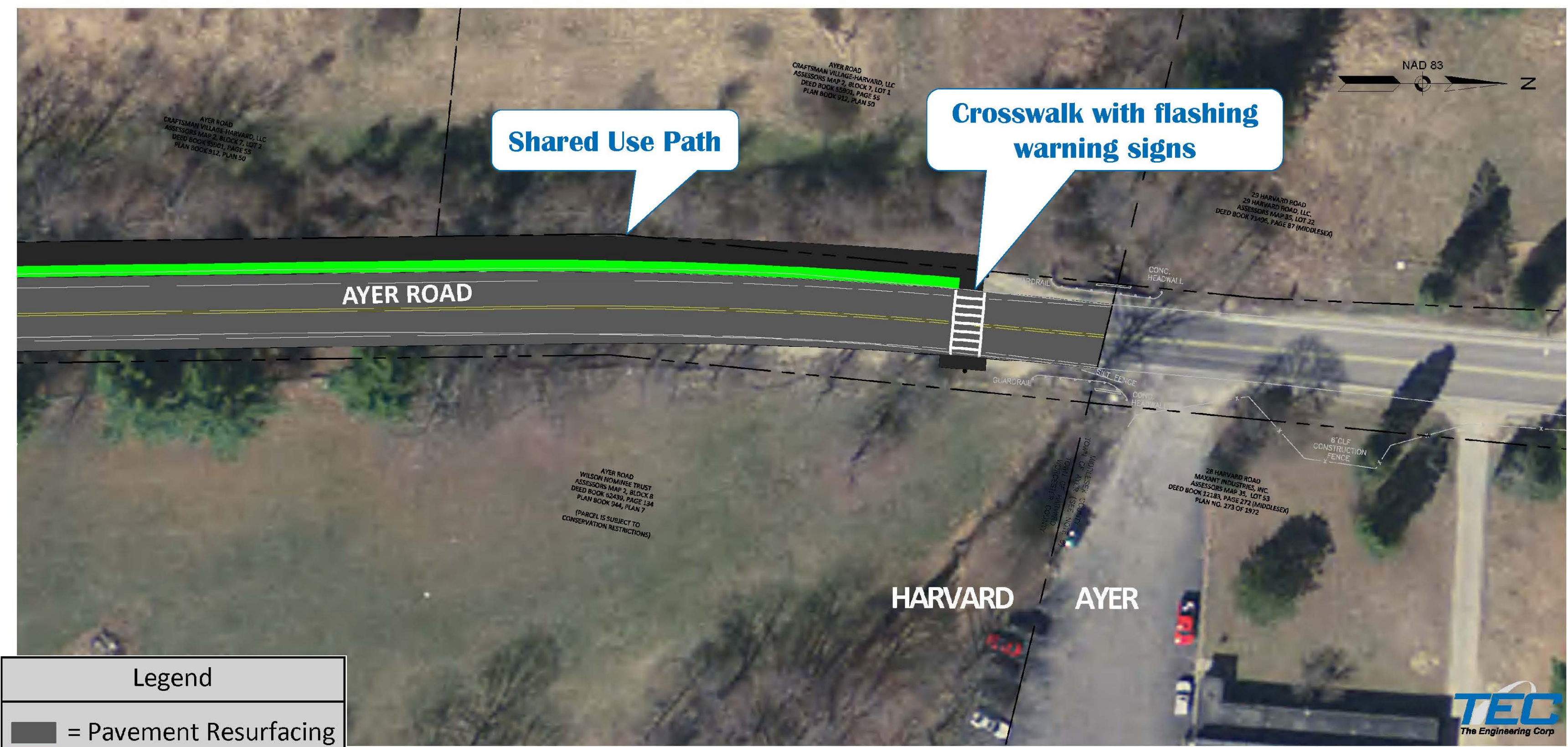
## Preliminary Construction Plans





# Ayer Road

## Preliminary Construction Plans







**How will your  
property be  
impacted?**



## Preliminary Right of Way (ROW) discussion- 25% Design

- Responsible for acquiring all necessary rights in public land for design, construction, and implementation of a project.
- Affected property owners will be contacted by personnel from the Town of Harvard Municipal Officials.
- Procedures must comply with state and federal regulations governing the acquisition process.
  - Property owners are protected under Massachusetts General Laws, primarily Chapter 79.
  - If project receives federal funds, property owners are further protected under Title III of the Real Property Act of 1970, as amended.
- Fee takings, permanent easements, and/or temporary construction easements may be required.
- Preliminary ROW plans are available on the Town of Harvard's website and a hard copy is available at Town Hall





**What are the  
environmental,  
cultural  
resource, and  
community  
impacts?**



# Environmental Permitting

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)
- National Historical Preservation Act of 1966 – Section 106
- Section 4(f) of the DOT Act
- Wetland Protection Act – Harvard's Conservation Commission
- Section 404 – Army Corps of Engineers
- Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA)







**What is the  
construction  
approach?**



## Proposed construction approach:

- Access to businesses and residences will be maintained at all times
- Short-duration temporary lane closures are anticipated
- Night work is not anticipated and will require approval by the Town and MassDOT





# Our next steps



Step 1 – 25% Design  
Public Hearing



Step 2 – File  
Environmental Permits



Step 3 – Complete  
75% Design and  
Accepted ROW Plans



Step 4 – Finalize  
Design and Secure  
ROW



Step 5 – Advertise  
2026







**How will we  
keep you  
informed?**



## Contact Information

- **Submit Comments via Mail:**

Carrie Lavalley, P.E.  
Chief Engineer MassDOT  
10 Park Plaza  
Boston, MA 02116

Att. Roadway Project Management Project File No. 609213

(Must postmark mailed comments within 10 days of webinar publish date for inclusion in public hearing transcript)

- **Submit Comments or Inquiries via E-Mail:**

[massdotprojectmanagement@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:massdotprojectmanagement@dot.state.ma.us)

Subject: MassDOT Project File No. 609213 Harvard- Resurfacing And  
Box Widening On Ayer Road







Questions and  
discussion



# Questions and answers



- “Raise your hand” to be unmuted for verbal questions



- Submit your questions and comments using the Q&A button



- Please state your name before your question



- Please share only 1 question or comment at a time, limited to 2 minutes, to allow others to participate



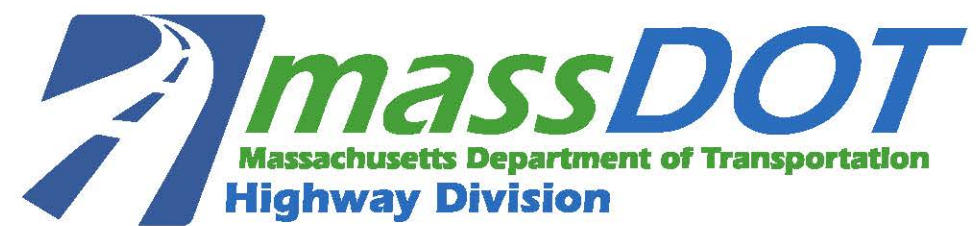
- To ask a question via phone, dial \*9 and the moderator will call out the last 4-digits of your phone number and unmute your audio when it is your turn.



- Please take a few minutes to complete the survey after the meeting to let us know how your experience was with this virtual meeting.

**All questions and comments are subject to disclosure for public records.  
Please use these functions for project related business only.**





# *Thank You*

*Reconstruction of  
Ayer Road in Harvard*

Zoom | March 30, 2022 | 6:30 – 8:00 PM

Project No. 609213

[MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us](mailto:MassDOTProjectManagement@dot.state.ma.us)

